

THE NOXIOUS NEWS

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Check out the Web for more information.

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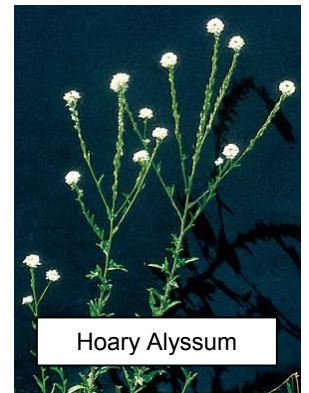
2004 State Noxious Weed List Proposed Changes

By Dana Coggon

Changes to the state weed list and monitor list are being reviewed. During the July meeting requests were presented to the noxious weed committee for changes to the 2004 weed list and monitor list. This article provides a review of the requested changes for 2004 and should be reviewed carefully. If you would like to add any input on any of the proposed changes please contact Steve McGonigal at SMCGONIGAL@AGR.WA.GOV or (360) 902-2053 by noon September 2.

The changes discussed for the monitor list are as follows. The committee is looking to remove hybrid Deadnettle, Common Mullein, and Yellow floating heart (now a class B weed) from the list. The committee is also reviewing the addition of yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), blooddrops (*Adonis annua*), Daphne (*Daphne laureola*), and Silver lace vine (*Polygonum auberti*).

Requested new additions to the 2004 class B weed list were as follows. There were two requests for the addition of Hoary Alyssum (*Berteroa incana*) as a Class B weed. Designated areas for control are to include all counties except Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties. There was also a request to add Common teasel to the state list as a class B noxious weed. Designated areas were not assigned and the committee is reviewing the extent of teasel infestations around the state to better assess this request and the possible designated areas. Queen Devil hawkweed (*Hieracium glomeratum*) was proposed for addition as a class B weed designated for control in all counties except Pend Oreille, Spokane and possibly Stevens Counties.



Hoary Alyssum

The committee is also reviewing requested changes to the classification and designations of various weeds. The committee is reviewing a request to change the designation of Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) from a class C weed to a B Designate weed. Designated control areas will include Pend Oreille, Grant and portions of Asotin counties. The committee is looking for input from other counties as to the final designation areas for Myrtle Spurge. Lewis County has requested to add Himalayan knotweed (*Polygonum polystachyum*) as a B designate. Pend Oreille has also requested the addition of Himalayan knotweed along with the addition of Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*) as B designates within the county. Jefferson County asked to designate gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) within the county, thus making gorse a B designate within all of region 1. Requests were also made to undesignated yellow hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*) in Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties. Lewis County also requested that spotted knapweed be undesignated below the ordinary high water mark of Tilton River from Hwy. 508 to Lake Mayfield. Adams county requested Saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) be designated in the entire county. While Grant county requested it be designated in all of the county except in township 14 north range 27 East.

And the final change requested for the 2004 weed list is to add Common Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) as a Class C noxious weed.

If you have any questions or comments on any the above information please contact Steve by September 2 at noon.

Hand Weeding Hazards

By Dana Coggon

Hand weeding has all ways been hard work and time consuming but can it also be hazardous to your health?

Coughing, severe headaches, congestion, and body aches. Sounds like the Flu, but in the summer. These are some of the more minor symptoms that people have been experiencing this year following the mowing or pulling of Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

Many people this year have been complaining about severe reactions to Poison Hemlock “fumes”. During the last few months I have received no fewer than 10 questions on the toxicity of poison hemlock when “fumes” are inhaled from cut plant material. One person indicated that the reaction to the fumes was so severe that they had to take a few days off of work and also needed to see a doctor. He noted that they had shortness of breath, severe headaches and stomach pains.

In response to this issue I did a literature search on Poison Hemlock and sent a question off to Dr. Talcott, a toxicologist with WSU, to see what information I could find on the volatilization of the toxic compounds. To my disappointment, the literature search turned up no information on effects directly related to inhaling the volatilized alkaloids. Most of the research that I found noted toxic effects only in terms of plant ingestion. The articles that I reviewed did however state that the alkaloids can still be present after the plant has been dried down. And that animal poisoning can result if dried portions of the plant are ingested.



Poison Hemlock

After hitting what I felt was a dead end, I hoped that the toxicologist would have some information on the detrimental effects of the volatile compounds. Dr Talcott had sent my query to the chief poisonous plant researcher at the Poisonous Plant Research Lab in Logan, UT. His response was as follows:

“Poison hemlock is not likely to cause problems directly unless they ingest it. As with all plants some individuals may develop hypersensitivities and they could develop rashes etc. In hypersensitive individual inhalation of any antigen can cause severe problems. I know of no one that has become sensitized to poison hemlock.”

So, in response to the questions about potential poisoning from the volatilization of the toxic compounds it sounds as if the cause of the sensitivity is attributed to an allergic reaction. From the information received I would say that it would be wise to warn people of possible reactions associated with inhalation of the cut hemlock material.

I will try to keep track of any further complications associated with the volatilization of the alkaloids and I will continue to pass along any new information that I receive.

If you have any experienced complications please contact me at dcoggon@agr.wa.gov and let me know so that we can continue to build a file on the hazards of this plant.



IN BRIEF

Some requests have come in to Dana's office in search of real-estate disclosure laws in reference to noxious weed issues. If you are in need of any information pertaining to the disclosure of noxious weeds during the sale of a property please contact me and I will send you a copy of the 1995 letter from the AG.

Scientists at Colorado State University are working to create a bioherbicide from compounds taken from knapweeds. Preliminary results have indicated that the isolated compounds are effective in reducing the above ground biomass of broadleaf weeds. Further research will be conducted in the up coming years. For more information contact Dana Coggon DCOGGON@AGR.WA.GOV

Washington State DOT has recently put out a report on the cost of vegetation management along roadsides. They have included cost of mechanical control and chemical controls. If you would like a copy of the report please contact Dana.

2002 Noxious weed distribution Maps are out. Please contact Greg Haubrich GHAUBRICH@AGR.WA.GOV to get your copy

Fair season is here!!! Make sure to get your reservations in for the state displays. Contact Shari SKINCY@AGR.WA.GOV for the necessary forms and to make reservations. Also make sure to request items from the state board two weeks in advance of your fair.

New arrivals: Lucy the Loosestrife is here. Whatcom county has a new mascot for the weed board. Lucy has made her debut and will be seen all over Whatcom county. If you have an interest in how to get your own mascot or would like to see if Lucy can make a trip to see you please contact LAUREL SHINER LSHINER@CO.WHATCOM.WA.US

The state Weed board staff is working with representatives of the WSDA nursery inspectors to inform industry people of the quarantine law and also of noxious weed issues. Dana is also looking in to doing a noxious weed article in horticultural industry newsletters to inform the industry of the need for their help to spot noxious weeds coming into the state. If you have any input on this issue please contact Dana.



Lucy

INTRODUCING THE WEST SIDE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL COORDINATOR

Please welcome Tara Goldsmith, the new noxious weed biocontrol project coordinator for WSU cooperative Extension. She will be working with extension faculty member Brad Gaolach out of King County to help coordinate and encourage the use of bioagents throughout Western Washington. This project has been modeled after the Quad County-Colville Reservation Bioagent Project in northeastern Washington. The program is to help foster partnerships between WSU-CE, County and State weed boards, Reservation representatives, and US Forest Service representatives.

To date, the project here on the westside has included collection of bioagents from eastern WA for western county coordinators, as well as collections and releases with USFS personnel on the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. This position was created to aid counties and land managers in their biocontrol efforts through public outreach and education, bioagent collection and redistribution, and bioagent monitoring.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL PROJECTS Are Now Available

Reports are available on the results of several of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board's Special Projects this year.

The reports include:

- Biological Control of Dalmatian Toadflax in Garfield County.
- Hawkweed Biocontrol Research by CABI Bioscience in Switzerland.
- A Spring Public Awareness Program in Jefferson County.
- Goat Grazing Workshop by WSU Klickitat County.
- Eggleaf Spurge Control in San Juan County.

Those wishing to receive copies of the reports can contact Steve McGonigal at smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov or (360) 902-2053 and specify which reports they want.

Herman Harder Elected To State Weed Board



The chairman of the Adams County Noxious Weed Control Board was recently elected to the State Weed Board.

Herman Harder wrote in his candidate statement that he had been involved in cattle ranching and wheat farming all of his life in the Columbia River Basin, and that he had been on the Adams County Weed Board since its inception in 1985 and its chairman for the last 10 years.

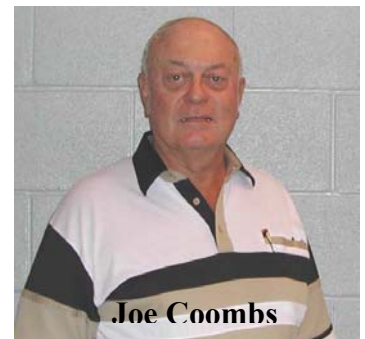
"My main concerns center around invasive infestations of channeled scabland range by the knapweed complex, toadflax, hoary cress, etc.," he wrote.

Harder was elected to a three-year term representing county weed boards in Adams, Whitman, Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, Walla Wall, Franklin, Benton, Klickitat and Yakima Counties.

Jerry Hendrickson, a member of the Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board, completed his term representing counties in the southeast quadrant of the state, and chose not to run for re-election. In a letter to State Board Chairman Ray Fann, Hendrickson wrote "I would like to thank the Washington State Noxious Weed Board for the enjoyable and informative term on the board. I would also like to thank Steve McGonigal, executive secretary, for all of his efforts in getting the board back on its feet."

In the same election, Joe Coombs, a member and former chairman of the Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board, was re-elected to represent county weed boards in the northeast quadrant of the state.

A consulting agronomist based in Spokane, Coombs specializes in crop problems and crop losses. In addition to his work on the county and state weed boards, he is also a member of the Spangle Town Council. He had earlier been elected to complete the term of a board member who resigned, and has now been elected to his first full three-year term. He represents county weed boards in Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, Grant, Kittitas, Chelan and Douglas Counties.



Forest Service EIS Release Approaches

Although the schedule has slipped somewhat, the date is approaching when the United States Forest Service will release the first draft of its plan for future weed control efforts in Washington and Oregon.

Many people with weed control responsibilities in Washington are interested in what the Forest Service does, or doesn't do, to control weeds on the national forests. The forests are large, and are frequently upstream and uphill from neighboring jurisdictions, and thus significantly impact their neighbors. Past agreements have made certain weed control methods and materials unavailable to Forest Service land managers, limiting their effectiveness.

The Environmental Impact Statement for USFS Region VI has been in development for several months. Representatives from the State Weed Board and several county weed boards gave Forest Service representatives initial input at a forum in Wenatchee last November.

July 21 was the original scheduled release date for the draft, but the document is now expected to be released in late August or September. When the draft is available, State Weed Board staff will alert all county weed boards and weed districts, with guidance on how a copy can be obtained and the length of the comment period. Until then, questions and comments can be directed to Steve McGonigal at (360) 902-2053 or smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov.

Biodiversity Committee Gets Weed Control Input *By Steve McGonigal*

A committee created by the state Legislature to recommend ways to protect the state's biological diversity has received input on the importance of noxious weed control in those efforts.

The Washington Biodiversity Conservation Committee was established by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6400 "... to develop recommendations to the governor and the legislature to establish the framework for the development and implementation of a statewide biodiversity conservation strategy, to replace existing single-species or single-resource protection programs."

The committee is administered by The Nature Conservancy under a contract won in a competitive bidding process. The committee's broad membership includes two county commissioners and representatives of tribes, business, agriculture, the timber industry, academia, environmental groups and federal, state and local government agencies.

With a draft report due July 31 and a final report due to the Governor and the Legislature September 26, the committee was hard at work at its May and June meetings when the State Weed Board was represented.

Prior to the start of the first draft, the State Weed Board provided the Committee with information on how unmanaged infestations of noxious weeds will hamper or defeat attempts to protect meaningful levels of biodiversity. Stressed in that input was the fact that properly-operated, sufficiently-funded county noxious weed boards and weed districts will always be beneficial to biodiversity, and will never be detrimental to biodiversity.

The State Weed board recommended that the Biodiversity Committee include an advocate for noxious weed control in any permanent body that many result from the Committee's recommendations.

Adequate weed-control funding for state agencies managing land and water resources was recommended, along with legislative provisos requiring the money to be spent on noxious weed control.

A "rapid response fund" that had come up in discussions was also supported by the State Weed Board, which also suggested that "early detection" be provided to facilitate rapid response to invasive species.

IT'S THE SEASON FOR TOURS

By Dana Coggon

Yep, its is that time of year again to pack your plant presses, cameras and your boots. It is time to travel to the far reaches of the state to see what weeds are popping up and how people are controlling them. This year the weed board staff has participated in official weed field tours in Grant and Okanogan counties. I have also had the privilege to take personal field tours in Pend Oreille, San Juan, Whatcom, Island and Okanogan counties. I ended my tour binge out by participating in a tour put together by the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration.

The Grant county tour included a boat ride to look at Phragmites and gave us the opportunity to look at an infestation of myrtle spurge. We also had the opportunity to look at a site were the weed board is tracking the move of yellow nut sedge and is hoping to work on a project to reduce the spread of the weed in the area. The tour was put together by the Grant County weed board and was attended by various members of the state weed board and surrounding county and district Weed Board representatives.



The Okanogan tour was also well attended. We had the opportunity to enjoy a presentation by Dr. Westbrooks, the coordinator for the USGS Early Warning and Rapid Response system. Dr. Westbrooks touched on the importance of early detection to stop weed invasions before they become a severe problem. He noted that studies have shown that early detection and eradication can save hundreds of thousands of dollars. He noted that we are currently experiencing a biological pollution. Invasive species are polluting our native habitats and causing catastrophic damages to natural areas around the world. The tour chose to stay in doors due to the 107 degree temperatures, but that did not keep the conversations cool. Representatives from the State Fish and Wildlife were asked point questions about the lack of funding for weed control on state lands. The representatives indicated that there was legislation this last year that provided the Fish and Wildlife Department with 850 thousand dollars for land management. The crowd discussed the issue of lack of land management of current lands while the state is still purchasing land. Many people voiced their concerns around the state gaining more land that had been well managed and allowing it to deteriorate.

The Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration conducted a tour through portions of Thurston and Lewis County to discuss the commissions interactions with the forestry industry. During the tour the group stopped at various locations and discussed the use of chemicals as an essential piece of the IPM system that is used to produce high quality trees. One stop on the tour took the group to a patch of wild chervil to discuss the issue of noxious weeds. I informed the group that there are many plants that cannot be controlled by just mechanical, biological or physical means and that herbicides play an important role in noxious weed control. We discussed how not all weeds are crop related yet they still are important to control to save our unique environment. Bill Wamsley with Lewis County did a presentation on aquatic noxious weeds and fielded questions about weed control and how weed boards operate. The tour also looked at roadside maintenance and the differences between mechanical and herbicide maintenance.



During the last few months I have also taken the opportunity to do some personal field tours. I observed noxious weed issues in various counties within the state and had the opportunity to listen to the needs of the county coordinators. I then took the information back to the state weed board in my monthly report. These tours gave me a new perspective on what my job entails.

If you would like specific information on my travels and on what issues were brought to my attention please contact me and I will send you a synopsis of my trips and what I learned. Thank you everyone who worked so hard to put together field tours big and small. It is highly important that we get an opportunity to observe weed issues across the state. I appreciate the hospitality of the county coordinators and I greatly appreciate the statewide perspective on noxious weed issues that they are helping me obtain.